

REMARKS:

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-8. Claims 1-8 are amended herein, and new claim 9 is added. No new matter is presented. Thus, claims 1-9 are pending and under consideration. The rejections are traversed below.

OBJECTION TO THE CLAIMS:

At item 4 of the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner indicates that claims 2-7 are objected to due to informalities. Claims 2-7 are amended herein.

Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112¶1 and § 112¶2:

Claims 1 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112¶1 and claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112¶2.

The present invention enables each user to assign information disclosure items to be correspondingly used when disclosing information specific to each user. That is, the assignment of the information disclosure items results in customization of the information disclosure procedure for each user. Such feature of the present invention is disclosed at least at page 2, paragraph 2, page 4, paragraph starting at line 6 and FIG. 6 and corresponding text and page 15, paragraph 1 and 2.

The claims are amended herein to comply with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112¶1 and 112¶2.

Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102(e):

Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Publication No. 2002/0083192 (Alisuag) or U.S. Patent No. 6,539,101 (Black).

A portable memory element (22) of Alisuag contains data encrypted with a key derived from passcode information that is known by or an identifying feature of a person (24) whose data is recorded on the portable memory element (22) (see, paragraph 9 and 12). However, Alisuag is limited to use of predefined identifying information in relation to the person (24) and does not, for example, allow each person to assign a disclosure procedure to be used to access each person's respective information (see, FIG. 2 and corresponding text).

Black is directed to a method of identity identification based on biometric technology according to which one or more biometrics (and metrics) are searched for a match upon an access request to identify a user (see, col. 4, lines 50-58 and col. 8, lines 31-40). However, Black is limited to biometric technology based identity verification that is offered or preset by different locations, such as banks, hospitals, etc., and does not allow each of the users to assign an information disclosure procedure.

The present invention enables each user to specify information disclosure items for each user's individual information and transmits individual information corresponding to the information disclosure items when a disclosure procedure matching an assigned disclosure procedure is input. This enables authentication of access to individual information based on information disclosure procedure assigned by an individual who owns the individual information.

For example, as shown in FIG. 6 of the present application, a user is able to assign an information disclosure procedure for selected disclosure items contained in the user's information (i.e., name, address, etc., in FIG. 6) such that upon input of information disclosure procedure matching the assigned information disclosure procedure, the information disclosure items (i.e., name, address, etc.,) are accessible.

Independent claim 8 as amended recites, "storing information of the users in association with information disclosure items... correspondingly assigned by the users" and "transmitting information corresponding to the information disclosure items of a specific user responsive to an information disclosure procedure matching the assigned information disclosure procedure corresponding to the specific user".

Alisuag and Black do not teach or suggest, "information disclosure items... correspondingly assigned by the users" and "transmitting information corresponding to the information disclosure items of a specific user responsive to an information disclosure procedure matching the assigned information disclosure procedure corresponding to the specific user", as recited in independent claim 8.

Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(a):

Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over various combinations of: Alisuag, U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0177030 (Turner), U.S. Patent No. 6,302,844 (Walker) and EP 0950972 (Platenghe).

Walker provides an expert diagnosis opinion of a patient's condition based on data gathered from a remote monitor monitoring the patient. In Walker, a patient is able to provide a preference ranking of experts according to which a request for diagnosis is transmitted (see, col. 13, line 54 through col. 14, line 18) such that the patient's data is provided to selected experts (see, FIG. 8A).

Platenghe allows access to stored data when a predetermined event occurs (see, Abstract) using a virtual executor function that allows a third party's access to be escrowed when owner of the stored data dies (see, paragraphs 13), and similarly, Turner uses security levels that are predefined for providing clearance to caregivers, responsible parties, etc., (see, paragraphs 22 and 25).

Independent claim 1 as amended recites that the present invention registers "corresponding individual information and corresponding information disclosure items of each individual", where the information disclosure items are "assigned by a corresponding individual". This enables transmission of "the individual information corresponding to the information disclosure items of the specific individual when the assigned information disclosure procedure is satisfied" (claim 1).

The cited reference, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest that the information disclosure items "assigned by each individual" such that "individual information corresponding to the information disclosure items of the specific individual" is transmitted to another individual, for example, "when the assigned information disclosure procedure is satisfied", as recited in independent claim 1.

It is submitted that the independent claim 1 is patentable over the cited references.

For at least the above-mentioned reasons, claims depending from independent claim 1 are patentably distinguishable over the cited references. The dependent claims are also independently patentable. For example, as recited in claim 5, "an authenticating section receives the request for disclosing the corresponding individual information of the specific individual, and authenticates the specific individual in an authentication procedure matching a corresponding authentication procedure of the specific individual stored in the disclosure procedure storing section". The cited references not teach or suggest features recited in dependent claim 5.

Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

NEW CLAIM:

New claim 9 is added to recite, "storing information of a first user and allowing the first user to assign a corresponding disclosure procedure using which each item of the information is to be accessed". This enables execution of "a corresponding disclosure procedure assigned to an item of the information" when receipt of "a request from a second user that satisfies the corresponding disclosure procedure assigned to the item by the first user", thereby "making the item accessible by the second user".

The cited references, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest the features recited in new claim 9.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that new claim 9 is patentably distinguishable over the cited references.

CONCLUSION:

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: _____



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